

Flint Hills Wine & Spirits

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316-733-8333

Dear Mr Chairman, members of the committee,

3/29/15

Please oppose **SB298** in any way shape or form. **Why?** The other side is really trying hard to get something favorable passed for them. They spend a lot of time and money trying to sell you on their position: *"It's what our customers want.....convenience"*. Please don't legislate for convenience over control. I can't argue with that, it would be more convenient. So would not having to put on a seat belt and so would be to allow texting while driving, maybe even loosening the B.A.C. level for impaired driving!

Don't feel pushed or pressured into passing bad legislation. Do you really want to scramble the established system (and affecting Kansas jobs) at the same time as putting control over alcohol in the hands of the counties? Why would one consider that? Especially as an 11th hour proposal to get their way. Would you pass school funding by county option? How about abortion control or concealed/carry laws? Please, you are a committee that needs to responsibly address a serious issue like SB298 with time and consideration. They are not affording you with the time or consideration that we Kansans deserve. If this turns into just a Strong Beer issue, it is still bad. Market dilution will affect so many people. Florida is going through this now. The large corporations want to have liquor now as well. They never seem to be happy unless they can have everyone else's product. So if you "just give them" strong beer, they will be back for more later.

You entrusted 749 of us with the responsibility of selling alcohol. Part of what has worked with the licensing as we have it is you have control over me. Yes, a license puts teeth into the law. If I get a D.U.I., commit a felony, sell to a minor or have too many infractions.....the state can pull my license. Then, I am out of a job.

If you give a corporation a license, you lose that ability for that same control. Think about what happens if they have too many infractions, the manager gets a D.U.I. or a shareholder gets a felony conviction - what store are is the State going to close? What license will you pull? They still have a job.

If you needed to close the store for a particular infraction, will they argue that only the beer department should be closed? The way the law is now, closure for a penalty is the entire store. So too it should be for them.

Do you see what I mean? This issue is too vexing, too complicated to be addressed this quickly. Heck, I had to get this written tonight by midnight in order for it to be presented to your committee! I worked all day at the store. They, the lobbyists for Uncork, have all the time in the day to figure out new ways to gain control of our market, change our laws and your ability to legislate effectively. Please don't allow them to run all over us with bad legislation.

I hope this opens your eyes to some new points that have not been considered. I will let our lobbyists convey stronger facts and figures. I'll let other stores fill you in on the basics of diluting the marketplace. I wanted this to be a refreshing point of view for you. Thanks for listening to me!

Regards,

Dave Dvorak, Owner